

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAHORE 00398 190229Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

OMB-01 IO-13 SY-05 OPR-02 SCS-03 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 /074 W

-----190239Z 001069 /73

O 181405Z APR 77

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1233

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL KARACHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAHORE 0398

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: AGITATION CONTINUES

REF: LAHORE 0385

SUMMARY: APRIL 17 SAW FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS IN PUNJAB AGAINST PPP GOVERNMENT. OPPOSITION TOOK OUT TWO PROCESSIONS IN LAHORE AND CLASHES BETWEEN PNA AND PPP WORKERS WERE REPORTED IN LEIAH AND GUJRANWALA. OPPOSITION IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO REFUSE BHUTTO'S OFFER TO HOLD PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS WHICH MAY PROVOKE FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. PNA TOOK OUT TWO PROTEST PROCESSIONS IN LAHORE APRIL 17, BOTH OF WHICH CONVERGED ON THE MALL IN THE MAIN DOWNTOWN AREA. ACCORDING TO THE PAKISTAN TIMES (APRIL 18), SOME OF THE DEMONSTRATORS CARRIED PISTOLS AND DAGGERS AND FEW SHOTS WERE FIRED RANDOMLY IN THE AIR. AT ONE POINT ALONG THE MARCH, DEMONSTRATORS STOPPED TWO ARMY TRUCKS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BOARDED THEM AND RAISED ANTI-GOVERNMENT SLOGANS. EARLIER SAME DAY, PNA WORKERS AND SUPPORTERS OFFERED FUNERAL PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THE DISTURBANCES SO FAR.

2. A SHARP CLASH BETWEEN PNA AND PPP WORKERS WAS REPORTED IN GUJRANWALA WHERE OPPOSITION DEMONSTRATORS BURNED SEVERAL PPP OFFICES, SOME SHOPS AND SET A BUS ON FIRE. IN LEIAH

(MUZAFFARGATH DISTRICT), THERE WERE SIMILAR REPORTS OF INTER PARTY CLASHES. IN VARIOUS OTHER PLACES, PROCESSIONS BY STUDENTS, LAWYERS, WOMEN AND OTHER PNA SUPPORTERS WENT OFF PEACEFULLY.

3. HARTAL IN LAHORE WAS LIFTED APRIL 17, WHEN PNA REQUESTED SHOPKEEPERS TO OPEN UP AND RESUME BUSINESS. OPPOSITION THANKED BUSINESS CLASS FOR THEIR SUPPORT BUT RECOGNIZED NEED FOR ECONOMY TO FUNCTION NORMALLY. HOWEVER, IT IS BELIEVED SOME BUSINESSMEN THREATENED TO WITHHOLD SUPPORT SHOULD OPPOSITION CONTINUE TO IMPOSE HARTAL. DECISION, A SHREWD ONE ON PART OF OPPOSITION, SHOULD HELP, NOT HURT, IT.

4. NAWABZADA NUSRULLAH KHAN IS EXPECTED TO HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 18 AND AFTERWARD ADDRESS OPPOSITION PARTY WORKERS TO GIVE PNA RESPONSE TO BHUTTO'S OFFER TO HOLD PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS (ISLAMABAD 3741). OPPOSITION IS EXPECTED TO REJECT PROPOSAL AND CARRY ON WITH MOVEMENT. GAMON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPPOSITION PARTIES, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LAHORE00398
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770134-1068
Format: TEL
From: LAHORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770447/aaaabowa.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 8a763aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LAHORE 385
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2777387
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AGITATION CONTINUES
TAGS: PINT, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8a763aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009